

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /075 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT/DRTELLEN:EI  
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS  
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IO:JBAKER

-----292337Z 113907 /62

R 292314Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020954

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, BT

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH BHUTANESE

REF: STATE 9726, NEW DELHI 0811 (NOTAL)

1. BHUTANESE UN PERM REP DAGO TSHERING MADE SEVERAL CALLS  
IN DEPARTMENT JANUARY 27  
HE MET BRIEFLY WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ATHERTON TO PRESENT MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT  
CARTER FROM KING JIGME SINGYE AND MORE EXTENSIVELY WITH  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES DUBS AND SOBER (NEA), CHAPMAN  
(CU), AND BAKER (IO). TSHERING CAME ACROSS AS WELL DIS-  
POSED TOWARD U.S. AND AS ARTICULATE, THOUGHTFUL, WELL-IN-  
FORMED DIPLOMAT WHO IS WORTH CULTIVATING.

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2. IN DISCUSSIONS IN NEA, TSHERING ASKED ABOUT US/INDIA  
RELATIONS AND MADE GRACEFUL REFERENCE TO THE REALITIES OF  
BHUTAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA. HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF  
BHUTANESE INTEREST IN EXPANDING FORMAL BILATERAL RELATIONS,  
BUT HE DID REACT POSITIVELY TO EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BY  
U.S. OFFICIALS IN INCLUDING THIMPU IN THE ITINERARY OF SOME  
FUTURE TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA.

3. MEETING WITH CHAPMAN (CU) REVIEWED STATUS OF U.S.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BHUTANESE STUDENTS, A FOURTH ONE HAVING JUST BEEN APPROVED. TSHERING EXPRESSED GOB'S SATISFACTION WITH AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR ITS STUDENTS, NOTING THAT VARIETY OF AMERICAN SCHOOLS PROVIDED GOOD TRAINING AT ANY LEVEL OF STUDENT'S INTEREST AND COMPETENCE. TSHERING OBSERVED WRYLTY THAT DONOR COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS (E.G., UN, COLOMBO PLAN) PREFERRED TO PROVIDE GRADUATE TRAINING BUT STRESSED THAT BHUTAN'S NEED IS FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, OR EVEN TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAINING, RATHER THAN MORE ADVANCED EDUCATION. TSHERING POINTED OUT THAT BHUTAN CAN USE MORE SCHOLARSHIPS BUT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS ON USG WHICH LIMIT US TO TOTAL OF FOUR BHUTANESE STUDENTS AT ANY TIME. CHAPMAN NOTED OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE FUTURE PROGRAMMING AT THIS LEVEL BUT TOOK NOTE OF GOB CAPACITY TO PLACE MORE STUDENTS IF OPPORTUNITIES WERE EXPANDED.

4. DISCUSSION WITH BAKER (IO) WAS WIDE RANGING AND DETAILED WITH TSHERING DEMONSTRATING EASY GRASP OF ISSUES AND THEIR SUBTLETIES. PERM REP NOTED BHUTAN'S IDENTIFICATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ITS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD INITIATIVES AND POSITIONS. WHEN BAKER NOTED HELPFUL GOB ABSTENTION ON SEVERAL ISSUES IMPORTANT TO U.S., TSHERING OUTLINED BHUTANESE PREFERENCE FOR MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE OUTLOOK AND DESIRE TO AVOID STEPPING ON TOES OF SUPERPOWERS. TSHERING ALSO STRESSED THAT BHUTAN HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS OWN POLICY AND SENSE OF INTERNATIONAL EQUITY. BHUTAN ABSTAINED ON ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION, FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT "FAIR" TO EQUATE PALESTINIAN GRIEVANCES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN RACIAL INJUSTICE. IT HAD ALSO ABSTAINED ON GUAM RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF EXTREME LANGUAGE. BHUTAN'S APPROACH ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES WAS SIMILAR.

5. IN ADDITION TO BHUTAN'S STAKE IN UNDP PROGRAMMING, TSHERING IDENTIFIED STATUS OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS AS MAIN FOCUS OF GOB INTEREST AT PRESENT TIME. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT REASONABLE INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES WOULD EMERGE TO ESTABLISH FRAMEWORK FOR BILATERAL DIALOGUE WITH TRANSIT STATES. TSHERING OTHERWISE EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION WITH COURSE OF NORTH/SOUTH TALKS WHICH SO FAR PROMISE LITTLE RELIEF OR BENEFIT FOR LEAST DEVELOPED STATES. HE WONDERED ALOUD WHY SUCH A CATEGORY HAD BEEN DEFINED IF NO INTEREST EXISTS IN MEETING THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS.

6. IN OTHER BRIEF REFERENCES, TSHERING PREDICTED ASIAN REGIONAL GROUPING IN UN WOULD MOVE SOON TO INSTITUTIONALIZE MECHANISM FOR SELECTION OF ASIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN UN ORGANS, E.G. AUTOMATIC ROTATION. HE ALSO IDENTIFIED NON-

ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE AS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT INSTITUTION IN BROKERING LDC RESPONSE ON WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES. ONE ISSUE TSHERING HIGHLIGHTED WAS GROWING DESIRE BY NON-NUCLEAR STATES TO HAVE SALT TALKS SHIFTED TO UN. MEMCON ON TALK WITH BAKER FOLLOWS.  
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## Message Attributes

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